

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on June 28, 2006. At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 1-14 and 28-39 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has: 1) canceled claims 1-14 and 28-39; and, 2) added new claims 40-55. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 40-55.

The Examiner rejected the Applicant's original independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 6,915,314 B2 (hereinafter, "Jackson et. al.") and U.S. Pub. Pat. App. No. 2005/0091195 (hereinafter "Sarashetti"). The Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of the Jackson et. al. and Sarashetti references are insufficient to cover the subject matter claimed by independent claims 40 and 51. Referring to new independent claim 40 initially, new independent claim 40 recites (emphasis added):

40. (new) A method, comprising:

a) assigning an identifier for a data object and storing said identifier, said data object stored in a database;

b) providing said identifier in response to a request requesting one or more identifiers of one or more data objects to be deleted, locking said identifier, and confirming that content of an archived version of said data object corresponds to said data object's content; and,

c) deleting said data object from said database and deleting said identifier.

The Applicant respectfully submits that neither the Jackson et. al. reference nor the Sarashetti reference disclose at least those claim elements emphasized above.

The Jackson et. al reference merely describes a "Migrator" function that automatically identifies data objects needing archival storage (and effects the archiving of these data objects) (See, Jackson et. al. Col. 4, line 62 through Col. 5, line 25) and an "Auto-Purge" function that actually performs the deleting of the data objects from a database (See, Jackson et. al. Col. 5, lines 34 through 49). Jackson et. al. does not disclose a request/response cycle involving an identifier of a data object to be deleted, the locking of such an identifier nor the deleting of such an identifier.

Sarashetti merely discloses that use of identifiers for data objects but, similar to Jackson et. al, fails to disclose a request/response cycle involving an identifier of a data object to be deleted, the locking of such an identifier nor the deleting of such an identifier.

The Applicant believes independent claim 51 to be allowable for similar reasons.

Because all independent claims are allowable, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons provided above, applicant respectfully submits that the current set of claims are allowable. If the Examiner believes an additional telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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